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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs [0012] to [0023] with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- [0012] Here, ~~in the present invention~~ according to ~~in claim 1~~ a first aspect of the present invention, on an inner wall surface of a passage, a soft acoustic section soft in acoustics where a sound pressure at an inner wall surface of the passage is approximately zero and a non-soft acoustic section where a sound pressure at the inner wall surface of the passage is not zero are alternately arranged over more than approximately a half wavelength of a sound wave to be silenced in a longitudinal direction of the passage.

[0013] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 2~~ a second aspect of the present invention, the passage is divided by partition walls such that an opening width becomes a half wave length or less of the sound wave to be silenced. On both side surfaces of the partition wall, the soft acoustic section soft in acoustics where the sound pressure at the inner wall surface of the passage is approximately zero and the non-soft acoustic section where the sound pressure at the inner wall surface of the passage is not zero are alternately arranged over more than approximately a half wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced in the longitudinal direction of the passage.

[0014] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 3~~ a third aspect of the present invention, ~~in the present invention described in claim 1 or claim 2~~ the first or second aspect, the soft acoustic section is formed of an acoustic pipe having a length thereof from an open end of the pipe disposed on

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a wall surface to a closed end equal to $1/4$ of the wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

[0015] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 4~~ a fourth aspect of the present invention, in ~~the present invention described in claim 3~~ the third aspect, the acoustic pipe has the open end thereof covered with a film.

[0016] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 5~~ a fifth aspect of the present invention, in ~~the present invention described in claim 3 or claim 4~~ the third or fourth aspect, the soft acoustic section is formed by arranging an open end of the acoustic pipe on one wall surface of the partition wall, and the non-soft acoustic section is formed by arranging a closed end of the acoustic pipe on another wall surface.

[0017] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 6~~ a sixth aspect of the present invention, in ~~the present invention described in any one of claims 1 to 5~~ the first to fifth aspects, the non-soft acoustic section is formed of a sound absorbing member which reduces a sound pressure.

[0018] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 7~~ a seventh aspect of the present invention, a first silencing means is mounted on one pair of inner wall surfaces out of two pairs of oppositely facing inner wall surfaces of the passage having a rectangular cross section, and a second silencing means which has silencing property different from silencing property of the first silencing means is mounted on another pair of the inner wall surfaces. The first silencing means is configured such that a soft acoustic section soft in acoustics where the sound pressure at the inner wall surface of the passage is approximately zero and a non-soft acoustic section where the sound pressure at the inner wall surface of the passage is not zero are alternately arranged over more than approximately

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a half wavelength or more of the sound wave to be silenced in the longitudinal direction of the passage.

[0019] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 8~~ an eighth aspect of the present invention, the passage is divided by the partition walls so as to form a plurality of miniaturized passages having a rectangular cross section in the passage such that an open width becomes a half wavelength or less of the sound wave to be silenced. A first silencing means is mounted on one pair of inner wall surfaces out of two pairs of oppositely facing inner wall surfaces of the miniaturized passage, and a second silencing means which has silencing property different from silencing property of the first silencing means is mounted on another pair of the inner wall surfaces. The first silencing means is configured such that a soft acoustic section soft in acoustics where the sound pressure at the inner wall surface of the passage is approximately zero and a non-soft acoustic section where the sound pressure at the inner wall surface of the passage is not zero are alternately arranged over more than approximately a half wavelength or more of the sound wave to be silenced in the longitudinal direction of the passage.

[0020] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 9~~ a ninth aspect of the present invention, in ~~the present invention described in claim 7 or claim 8~~ the seventh or eighth aspect, the soft acoustic section is formed of an acoustic pipe having a length from an open end of the pipe disposed on a wall surface to a closed end equal to $1/4$ of a wavelength of the sound wave to be silenced.

[0021] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 10~~ a tenth aspect of the present invention, in ~~the present invention described in claim 9~~ the ninth aspect, the acoustic pipe has the open end thereof covered with a film.

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[0022] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 11~~ an eleventh aspect of the present invention, in the ~~present invention described in claim 9 or claim 10~~ the ninth or tenth aspect, the soft acoustic section is formed by arranging an open end of the acoustic pipe on one wall surface of the partition wall, and the non-soft acoustic section is formed by arranging a closed end of the acoustic pipe on another wall surface.

[0023] Further, according to ~~the present invention described in claim 12~~ a twelfth aspect of the present invention, in the ~~present invention described in any one of claims 7 to 11~~ the seventh to eleventh aspects, the second silencing means is configured such that a sound absorbing section which reduces a sound pressure of the sound wave to be silenced is formed on the inner wall surface. --

Please replace the paragraph [0024] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0024] Fig. 1 is an explanatory view of a measuring device which measures a silencing capacity of a duct silencer;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing an acoustic pipe arrangement body of the duct silencer which becomes an object to be tested;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing an acoustic pipe arrangement body of the duct silencer which becomes an object to be tested;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing an acoustic pipe arrangement body of the duct silencer which becomes an object to be tested;

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Fig. 5 is an explanatory view of the boundary surface structure of the duct silencer which becomes an object to be tested;

Fig. 6 is a graph showing a result of measurement of the silencing capacity of the duct silencer;

Fig. 7 is a graph showing a result of measurement of the silencing capacity of the duct silencer;

Fig. 8 is a graph showing a result of measurement of the silencing capacity of the duct silencer;

Fig. 9 is an explanatory view showing a use state of one embodiment of the duct silencer in cross section;

Fig. 10 is an explanatory view of a cross-sectional shape taken along a line I-I in Fig. 1;

Fig. 11 is an explanatory view showing the arrangement of soft acoustic sections and non-soft acoustic sections in a region II in Fig. 1;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view showing one embodiment of the duct silencer;

Fig. 13 is a perspective view showing the duct silencer of another embodiment;

Fig. 14 is an explanatory view of the boundary surface structure of the duct silencer which becomes an object to be tested;

Fig. 15 is an explanatory view of the boundary surface structure of the duct silencer which becomes an object to be tested;

Fig. 16 is an explanatory view of a measuring device which measures a silencing capacity of a duct silencer;

Fig. 17 is a graph showing a result of measurement of the silencing capacity of the duct silencer;

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Fig. 18 is a graph showing a result of measurement of the silencing capacity of the duct silencer;

Fig. 19 is an explanatory view showing a use state of another embodiment of the duct silencer in cross section;

Fig. 20 is an explanatory view of a cross-sectional shape taken along a line III-III in Fig. 19;

Fig. 21 is an explanatory view showing the arrangement of soft acoustic sections and non-soft acoustic sections in a region IV in Fig. 19;

Fig. 22 is a graph showing a result of an experiment which confirms advantageous effects when a film is mounted on an open portion of an acoustic pipe;

Fig. 23 is an explanatory view of a conventional splitter-type duct silencer;

Fig. 24 is an explanatory view of a conventional cell-type duct silencer; and

~~Fig. 25~~ Figs. 25(a) and 25(b) are explanatory views showing a state in which a $1/4$ wavelength acoustic pipe is arranged in the conventional cell-type duct silencer, wherein Fig. 25(a) is an explanatory view showing a state in which the $1/4$ wavelength acoustic pipe is arranged on four peripheral surfaces of the cell, and Fig. 25(b) is an explanatory view in which the $1/4$ wavelength acoustic pipe is arranged on only two opposing peripheral surfaces of the cell. --